

## PROTECTION FROM INTIMIDATION

Any victim or witness who is subjected to intimidation, harassment or retaliation should promptly notify the prosecutor handling the case for information on potential remedies for protection. If in immediate danger call 911 or a local law enforcement agency.

## CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

An application for crime victim compensation is available from the Kentucky Crime Victims Compensation Board. To obtain a form or for additional information the Board may be contacted at 502.573.7986 or 800.469.2120. Applications and answers to frequently asked questions can also be found at <http://cvcb.ky.gov/>

## VINE

Victim Information and Notification Everyday — For information and notifications regarding currently incarcerated offenders you may register by calling 800.511.1670 or on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/6ccyrm>

## VINE COURT SERVICE

For information or notifications regarding upcoming court events you may register by calling 800.511.1670 or on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/317a7h>  
If you need additional assistance in registering for either VINE or VINE Court Service contact the Office of Victims Services at 877.687.6818.

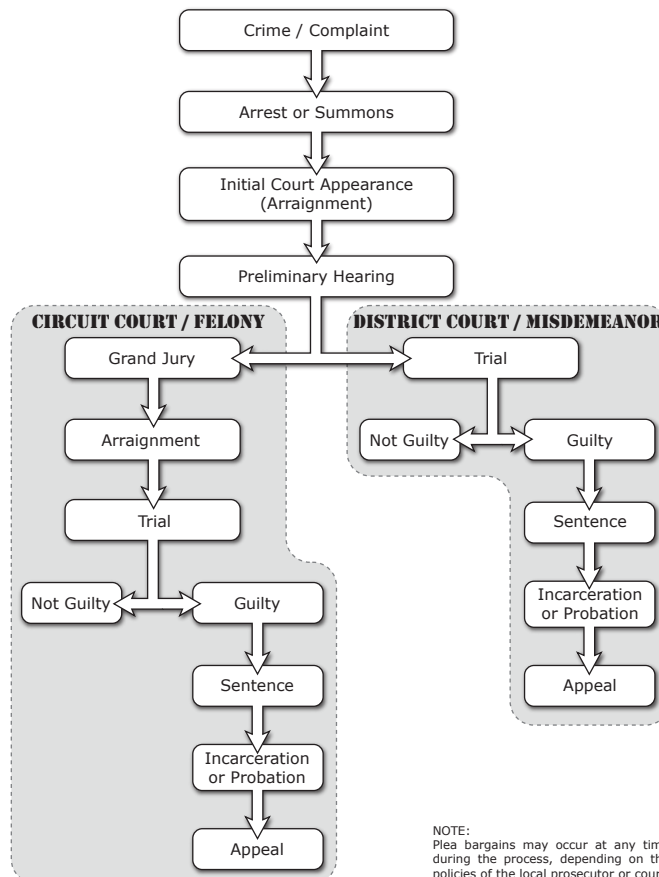
## SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

<http://tinyurl.com/cffurn>

## SEX OFFENDER ALERT LINE

Up-to-date information regarding the release of registered sex offenders into local communities is available by calling 866.564.5652.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE STEPS



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs  
502.226.2704

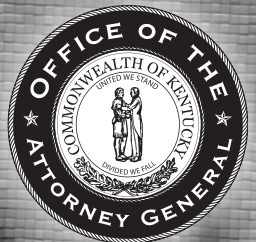
Kentucky Domestic Violence Association  
502.209.5382

Kentucky Association of Children's Advocacy Centers  
502.223.5117

Kentucky MADD  
502.223.4930

# VICTIMS RIGHTS

Office of  
Victims Advocacy  
502.696.5312  
800.372.2551  
[ag.ky.gov/victims](http://ag.ky.gov/victims)



## PROSECUTORS' ROLE

The Commonwealth's attorney prosecutes all felony crimes (those offenses carrying a penalty of one year or more) committed by persons eighteen years of age or older, which occur in the judicial circuit of that prosecutor. In some specific instances, the Commonwealth's attorney may also prosecute juveniles charged with felony offenses. The Commonwealth's attorney is also responsible for presenting evidence of such crimes to the grand jury (KRS 15.725). The Commonwealth's Attorney represents the Commonwealth, not the crime victim.

The County attorney prosecutes all violations of criminal laws, except KRS Chapter 131, within the jurisdiction of the district court and all proceedings held pursuant to petitions filed under KRS Chapter 610 (the Unified Juvenile Code), which occur in the county of that prosecutor. These cases include felony crimes through preliminary hearing, misdemeanor crimes, crimes committed by juveniles, and dependency, neglect and abuse cases (KRS 15.725; KRS 610). The County Attorney represents the Commonwealth, not the crime victim.

## DEFENSE ATTORNEYS' ROLE

The constitutions of the United States and Kentucky require that all persons accused of a crime have a fair trial. The role of the defense attorney is to provide representation for an accused person and protect his or her right to a fair trial. The defendant, or his attorney, has the right to question all witnesses at trial or in other court proceedings (except grand jury). A victim or witness is not required to discuss the crime outside of court unless served with a court order.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ROLE

To provide, where possible, notification to the victim of the defendant's initial appeal, status of the case and the decision of the appellate court, if a defendant seeks appellate review of a conviction and the Commonwealth is represented by the Attorney General.

## KENTUCKY CRIME VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS

### *Prosecutors' Role*

**Information** — Attorneys for the Commonwealth shall insure that victims receive available information on

- protective, emergency, social and medical services;
- obtaining assistance from a victim advocate;
- community-based treatment programs; and
- where applicable, restitution and crime victim compensation.

They shall also provide information to victims and witnesses on

- how to register to be notified when a person has been released from a prison, jail, juvenile detention facility, psychiatric facility or under limited circumstances, a forensic psychiatric facility;
- how to be protected from intimidation, harassment, or retaliation; and
- the Victim, Witness and Family Protection Program.

**Notification** — If victims so desire and if they provide the prosecutor with a current address and telephone number, they shall receive prompt notification, if possible, of judicial proceedings relating to their case, including but not limited to the following:

- Defendant's release on bond and any special conditions of release,
- charges filed against the defendant,
- the defendant's pleading to the charges,
- trial date,
- a scheduled hearing for shock probation or bail pending appeal and any resulting orders,
- changes in custody of the defendant,
- changes in the trial date,
- trial verdict,
- sentencing date, and

- any parole board hearings held for the defendant.

Prosecutors shall also

- make reasonable efforts to insure that victims and witnesses who are required to attend criminal justice proceedings are notified promptly of any scheduled changes that affect their appearances,
- notify the victim that upon conviction of the defendant that he or she has the right to submit a written victim impact statement, and
- make a reasonable effort to insure that victims receive prompt notification that the Attorney General will notify the victim if an appeal of the conviction is pursued by the defendant.

**Consultation** — Attorneys for the Commonwealth shall consult victims on case disposition including the following:

- case dismissal,
- release of defendant pending judicial proceedings,
- any conditions of release,
- a negotiated plea, or
- defendant's entry into a pre-trial diversion program.

**Other provisions** — Attorneys for the Commonwealth shall:

- promptly return a victim's property held for evidentiary purposes unless there is a compelling reason for retaining it,
- provide information on obtaining protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and
- upon request by a victim or witness, assist in informing employers that the need for victim or witness cooperation in the prosecution of the case may necessitate absences from work.